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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP 1731  
PATENT APPLICATION

#24F/BM  
4-10-13

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re application of**

Docket No: Q58134

Pierre RIPCHE, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Confirmation No.: 8169

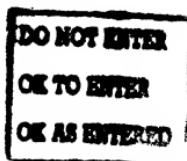
Examiner: John M. HOFFMAN

Filed: March 06, 2000

For: METHOD OF FABRICATING AN OPTICAL FIBER PREFORM INCLUDING OUTSIDE DEPOSITION OF SILICA, POSSIBLY DOPED SILICA

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

ATTN: BOX AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 7, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an optical fiber preform including a step of outside deposition of silica ~~possible~~ possibly doped with at least one dopant, comprising:

injecting at least one substance, with an injector means, in the form of silica or a precursor of silica, in a heated area created by heating means during at least one pass of said heating means and said injector means, wherein said injector means is associated with said heating means,

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